

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The ethnic antagonism between Croats and Serbs in the Karlovac area is in a very acute stage. Karlovac is a Croatian town near the Slovene border, but in the nearby Lika area the population is mixed. Several Serbs have moved into Karlovac since the end of the war and assumed important positions in the Party and in various government offices. During World War II, at the time of the independent Croatian state, Serbs in the Lika area were heavily persecuted by Croatian Ustashi, and as a sort of revenge the Party and the Government appointed many Serbs to important positions in purely Croatian areas such as Karlovac. These Serbs are looked upon by Croats as intruders and "colonizers" and hated more than Serbs from Serbia. Since 1945 several Serbs who were Party and people's committee secretaries in the villages near Karlovac have been killed by unknown Croats. 25X1

2. The large majority of Croats in the Karlovac area are anti-Communist and anti-Yugoslav. They blame the Serbs for the existence of Yugoslavia and for the existence of the Communist regime. The traditional Serbian-Croatian antagonism, as seen from Karlovac, is just as strong now as it was during and before World War II. The following Croatian nationalist underground organizations were uncovered in Karlovac in 1951-1952:

a. Crna Ruka (Black Hand) was discovered by UMB in 1952 and was allegedly responsible for some of the killings of Serbian officials.

b. Teho (Tajna Organizacija Hrvatske Omladine: Secret Organization of Croatian Youth) was discovered in Zagreb by UMB. Several arrests were made in Zagreb and Karlovac in 1951 and 1952, and the organization was presumably liquidated. The purpose of this organization was to set up a machinery for the overthrow of the Communist regime in case of the outbreak of war or of similar emergency situation; the plans included the establishment of resistance and sabotage nuclei, the thwarting of

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the Yugoslav mobilization program, and the setting up of a political organization to take over from the Communists.

3. Serbian-Croatian antagonism is furthermore reflected in the following facts:

- a. A Serb very often does not get a job in an enterprise with Croatian management, and vice versa.
- b. Violent newspaper polemics often take place between Belgrade and Zagreb on various films, theater plays, and literary works produced and published respectively in Croatia and Serbia. The polemics have nationalist undertones, and an outstanding example was an attack on Miroslav Krleza by the Union of Serbian Writers.
- c. National antagonism often flares up at sport encounters between Serbian and Croatian teams and is expressed in verbal and physical incidents with both spectators and team members taking part.
- d. The word "Serbo-Croatian" referring to the language has been almost completely abolished. The terms "Croatian" and "Serbian", when referring to the language, are used in publications, as is the interpretation that Croatian and Serbian are two separate languages.
- e. Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac is looked upon by the Croats as a symbol of Croatia's struggle against Communism, while the Croatian Catholic priests accuse the Serbian Orthodox Church of collaboration with the Tito regime.

4. Any kind of open expression of ethnic antagonism is severely punished in the armed forces, and the slogan of "fraternity and unity" is constantly stressed at the Party and other meetings. This policy, however, cannot prevent members of various national groups from sticking together when off duty and from forming their own separate informal social circles. Slovenes especially are known for sticking together and for assisting each other and for not wanting to have much to do with their colleagues of other nationalities belonging to the armed forces.

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5. Croats in Karlovac complain that the Slovenian people do not make any distinction between Croats and Serbs, nor do they care much about what is going on in the rest of Yugoslavia

They attempt
to discourage the people from other areas of Yugoslavia from settling
in Slovenia.

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